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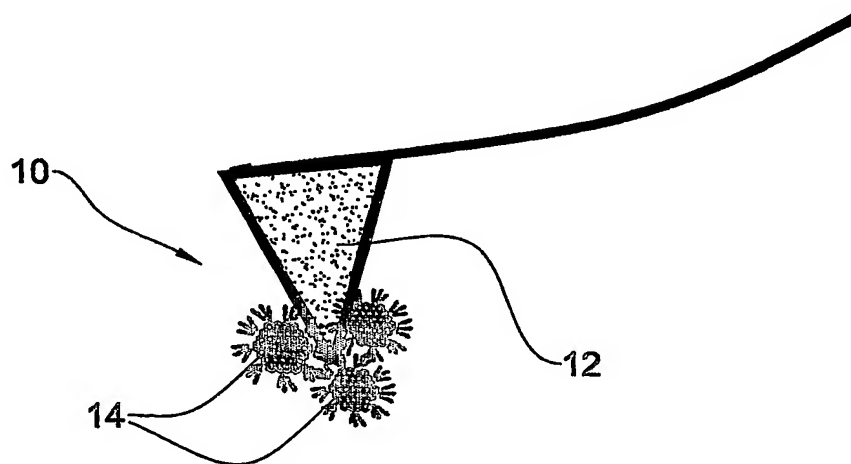
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- (74) Agent: REINHOLD COHN AND PARTNERS; P.O.B.
4060, 61040 Tel Aviv (IL).
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): YISSUM
RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF THE
HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM [IL/IL];
Hi Tech Park, Edmond Safra Campus, Givat Ram, 91390
Jerusalem (IL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BANIN, Uri [IL/IL];
37 Yasmin Street, 90805 Mevasseret Zion (IL). MOKARI,
Taleb [IL/IL]; Givat Ram 4/208, P.O.B. 39183, 91391
Jerusalem (IL). EBENSTEIN, Yuval [IL/IL]; 28 Yakinyon
Street, 70600 Yavne (IL).
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(54) Title: NANOPARTICLES FUNCTIONALIZED PROBES AND METHODS FOR PREPARING SUCH PROBES



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides probes functionalized with nanoparticles, methods for binding nanoparticles to the probes and the use of such probes in nanometer scale imaging techniques. More specifically, the present invention provides a tip device having at least a portion thereof with an outer surface bound to at least one sub-layer of a material comprising nanoparticles, the nanoparticles acting as donors, acceptors, modifiers, quenchers and/or enhancers with respect to electromagnetic radiation.